



MEDIA ADVISORY

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: August 3, 2005

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Howard County Police to Release Results of Investigation into Sex Offender Registry Compliance

Who: G. Wayne Livesay, Chief of Police
Dario Broccolino, Deputy State's Attorney

What: Sex Offender Registry Compliance Investigation

When: Thursday, Aug. 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Howard County Police Headquarters
3410 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Md.

At a press conference tomorrow, the Howard County Police Department will be announcing the results of a recent investigation into the compliance of 76 sex offenders living in Howard County.

Each year, every sex offender living in Howard County is required to report to the County Police Department to register. Throughout the year, offenders are additionally required to update their information with the police department should they change residence or place of employment. The investigation was aimed at determining if offenders are complying with the regulations by providing the police accurate and updated address and employment information.

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Editor's Note: Attached below is the Press Statement from the Press Conference



**Howard County Police Department
For Release: Aug. 4 , 2005**

**Press Statement
Sex Offender Registry Compliance Investigation
G. Wayne Livesay, Howard County Chief of Police**

I've asked you all to join me here today to discuss the very important topic of the Sex Offender Registry, and to announce the results of our zero-tolerance enforcement.

11-years ago, a 7-year old New Jersey girl named Megan was raped and murdered by a convicted pedophile. This case, as tragic as it was, set into motion efforts to require every sex offender to register with the state in which they live. By 1995, that law was in place and the first step towards tracking sex offenders took place.

Since Megan's law was enacted, our department has been photographing, fingerprinting, and obtaining personal information on convicted sex offenders living in Howard County. Every year, sex offenders are required to come into our Police Headquarters and be processed. They must provide us with current address and work information, and before they leave, they sign paperwork requiring them to call the police within 7 days should they change residence or employment.

Recently it has come to light that the address and work information listed in the sex offender registries for states across the nation is simply not accurate. Either the offenders are not providing correct information, or they are changing information and failing to tell the state they register with. Either way, they are breaking the law by doing so.

We have all read about the 8-year old Reno girl who was abducted by a convicted sex offender. Here in Maryland, we have also heard about the sex offender accused of killing his 13-year old step-daughter in Essex. That offender's information was incorrect in the sex offender registry. That is a tragedy that we simply cannot allow to happen in Howard County.

Knowing that statistics show a high recidivism rate for sexual offenders, Howard County has always been vigilant and has taken extra efforts to know where our sex offenders are and give that information to the public.

The Howard County Police Department files all registrants into a database at our Police Headquarters Records section. This report is made available to all citizens, is posted on our website, and is distributed to the Howard County Housing Commission, the State's Attorney's Office, the Maryland State Police, and the Howard County Public School System.

As part of an initiative which began about a year ago our detectives started conducting validation checks on every offender after they came in for their yearly registration. Our detectives go to the residences the offender listed as his or her address and make sure that they were actually living there.

This way we made sure that no offender has lied on their registration form, and we knew where we could find them.

Cases over the last year have heightened our attention, and for the past several months, we have been trying to determine what extra safeguards we can put in place to make sure that we, and the public, knows where each and every sex offender in Howard County is living.

We determined that, while we were conducting checks immediately after their yearly registration, we could not guarantee that they were notifying our department if they moved or changed jobs. We decided that what we wanted to do was conduct an unannounced compliance check to determine if they were still where they said they would be.

As part of phase II of the initiative, on July 26, 27 and 28, Howard County detectives did just that. They went to where each offender said they lived and conducted a home visit to confirm that they were where they were supposed to be. Of the 76 offenders we checked, 13 were found to no longer be living where they said they were and had not notified the department. These 12 men and 1 woman are the faces you see displayed in this room today. Three of these offenders already have charges pending against them for the same violation.

By not informing the department of their change of address and not providing the department with a new or accurate address, those 13 sex offenders broke the law.

Yesterday, 13 arrest warrants were issued for each and every one of the violators.

As of right now, 3 have been arrested.

I want the public to know that we take these cases very seriously. I hope that they see that from the extra efforts we take to make sure that we and the public both know where these sexual offenders are in our County.

This is a very sensitive issue and I sympathize with parents and citizens who are concerned, even though Howard County's non-compliance rate of 17 % is lower than average. We're doing better than most, but we can do even more. I want the public to know that we have gone and will continue to go above and beyond what is required to maintain accurate sex offender registries, and that we will continue to conduct these unannounced checks to ensure that every sex offender in Howard County is accounted for.